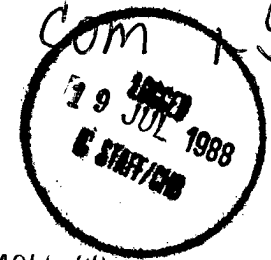


Director
Intelligence Community Staff
Washington, D.C. 20505



ICS 4255-88

19 July 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Ralph A. MacMillan
Executive Secretary, National Telecommunications and
Information Systems Security Committee

SUBJECT: Comments on Draft NTISS Instruction: "INFOSEC Item
Modifications" - NTISSC-041/88, 27 May 1988

1. We have reviewed the subject draft and support its purpose in creating a new procedure for handling modifications to COMSEC products produced under the Commercial COMSEC Endorsement Program. We do, however, take exception to the use of the term INFOSEC in this document. This term has recently come into general use to refer to the combination of the subject matter traditionally encompassed by both COMSEC and COMPUSEC. While we are aware of no official policy document defining the term INFOSEC per se, the SAISS Working Group #3 draft Dictionary of Computer Security Terminology includes a definition of the term "Information Security" as follows:

"An Automated Information System and communication security system of administrative policies and procedures for identifying controlling and protecting information from unauthorized disclosure."

The term "Information Systems Security" is likewise defined as follows:

"The protection afforded to information systems in order to preserve the availability, integrity and confidentiality of the systems and information contained within the systems. Such protection is the application of the combination of all security disciplines which will, at a minimum, include COMSEC, TEMPEST, computer security, OPSEC, information security, personnel security, industrial security, resource protection, and physical security."

2. A careful reading of the proposed NTISSI and its defined terms indicates that its coverage is intended to be limited to procedures required for modification of COMSEC End Items and hardware and software performing cryptographic functions and does not directly involve equipment or software related to COMPUSEC. We are, therefore, of the opinion that the introduction of the term INFOSEC into the document is inappropriate and could lead to confusion as to the extent of its intended coverage. The term INFOSEC is not used consistently and at times appears to be used interchangeably with the term COMSEC. For these reasons we recommend that the term "INFOSEC" be replaced with the term "COMSEC" wherever it appears in the subject draft.

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3. We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this proposed NTISSI.

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Edward J. Metz
Lieutenant General, USA

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